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VIP

No China Lobby

By Maxine Cheshire

Agents for the Chinese diplomatic delegation looking for a 200-room hotel to serve as permanent living and working quarters, inquired about buying the Howard Johnson's Motel across from the Watergate. The owners didn't want to sell.

The motel is already something of a tourist curiosity. One of its rooms (No. 419) is where electronic equipment was placed to eavesdrop on the Democrats.

Potpourri

The Watergate is all anyone in Washington talks about. Said Ethel Kennedy to CBS correspondent Roger Mudd as he was leaving a party: "Did you ever think you would see a time when Frank Sinatra would be ashamed to be seen with a President of the United States?" . . . Joan Kennedy has developed a reply for dealing with reporters' questions that is more effective than "No comment." Remarking on her tan last week, a reporter asked where Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's wife had soaked up that much sun. "Yes," replied Mrs. Kennedy. Bewildered, the reporter, one of the most persistent in Washington, repeated the question. "YES!" repeated Mrs. Kennedy, smiling. The reporter gave up . . . Evan-